

# THE Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

## BRIEFS

### CONGRESS GETS LETTER FROM PRO-LIFE LEADERS

American pro-life leaders have sent a letter to all GOP members of the U.S. Congress urging them to adopt legislation that would remove most of the taxpayer funding received by Planned Parenthood and its affiliates, which perform more than one-third of the abortions in the United States. In the last congressional session, both the Senate and House approved legislation to cut funding for Planned Parenthood by about 90% and direct it to federally-qualified health centers that do not perform abortions, but then U.S. President Barack Obama vetoed the measure.

### TURKEY ADDS CHARGES ON U.S. CITIZEN PASTOR

IZMIR, Turkey (BP) — American pastor Andrew Brunson faces new charges punishable by four consecutive life imprisonments in a Turkey prison. The Presbyterian pastor from North Carolina is accused of espionage aimed at overthrowing the Turkish Parliament and government, and undermining the constitutional order of the state, the Wall Street Journal reported shortly after the charges were levied Aug. 24. Previously accused of working with the Fetullah Gulen movement to overthrow Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Brunson has been imprisoned since early October 2016.

### WYOMING JUDGE FIGHTS FOR MARRIAGE BELIEFS

WASHINGTON (BP) — Long-time Wyoming municipal judge and circuit court magistrate Ruth Neely is seeking relief from the U.S. Supreme Court after the State of Wyoming fired her for telling a reporter she believes marriage is between a man and a woman. The state violated Neely's right to free speech, her Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) attorneys said in asking the Supreme Court to declare that a judge cannot be punished for expressing beliefs about marriage. No evidence suggests that Neely's religious beliefs regarding marriage has harmed any person, ADF said on adflegal.org.



**ON THE SCENE** — Volunteers Tammy Hutchinson and Evelyn Rojas unpack goods at the Austin-area First Church in Pflugerville, Texas, where a Baptist disaster relief kitchen is preparing meals for Hurricane Harvey evacuees housed in the city's mega-shelter. Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers have been dispatched to Corpus Christi and Orange in Texas, and are awaiting orders to deploy to Florida in response to Hurricane Irma. (BP photo)

## Ready for Irma response

**FLORIDA (BP and local reports)** — Mississippi Baptists, already populating water-soaked Texas with disaster relief volunteers after Hurricane Harvey, have completed preparations for deployment to Florida when Hurricane Irma clears out of that state.

"The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief (MBDR) unit's mass feeding unit is ready for

deployment to Florida," said Don Gann, disaster relief coordinator for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) and director of MBCB Men's Ministry.

The mass feeding unit consists of a fully self-contained kitchen mounted on a tractor-trailer along with food supplies. The unit carries potable water, its own electrical power

generator, and propane supplies for cooking. The unit can prepare 20,000 meals per day.

Volunteers assigned to the Florida team will travel this week, Gann said, but departure time and location assignment have not yet been decided with the remainder of the storm track still somewhat uncertain. An MBDR shower unit is also

see IRMA on p. 6

## Theory of evolution has holes, expert says

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP) — A leading evolution apologist

has admitted that Charles Darwin's theory largely avoids explaining how life originated and how complexity developed.



MÜLLER

Gerd Müller, a highly-regarded Austrian evolutionary theorist and professor at the University of Vienna, recently gave a presentation that was published in *Interface Focus*, a London-based magazine each issue of which is "devoted to a particular subject at the interface of the physical and life sciences," according to the magazine's web site ([rsfs.royalsocietypublishing.org/](http://rsfs.royalsocietypublishing.org/)).

Müller did not espouse any creationist or design beliefs, but his presentation's subject demonstrated that advocates of evolution are forced to admit the theory has many holes.

The presentation was devastating "for anyone who

see EVOLUTION on p. 7

## Miss. church loses older building to major fire



Yellow Leaf Church, southeast of Oxford, suffered the total loss of an older building Aug. 31 that once served as the church's main facility and was still housing a variety of ministries. The newer portion of the church on the same property was not affected, according to pastor Shane McGivney. But a fellowship hall attached to the older building was also a total loss. "A tree fell during a storm and hit a power line, which began arcing on the building. It was still arcing when the fire department got here," he said. The fire was spotted about 10:30 p.m., McGivney said. The property was insured, McGivney noted, and plans are being made to rebuild. (BR photo by Barri A. Shirley)

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### A divided nation?

**H**as our beloved country ever appeared to be more divided than it is right now? Has there ever been more sheer hatred displayed in public for all to see? Have special interest groups ever purposely created more confusion and fear? Many people would say it's never been as bad as it is now.

Groups are marching in the streets of America's largest cities, yelling their approval of police killings. White separatists boast of their superiority based solely on their skin color. Others want special treatment because of their non-traditional sexuality and/or gender choices.

Universities trample constitutionally-protected free speech rights to avoid "micro-aggressions." Those same hallowed institutions of higher learning look the other way when students are turned away from campus gatherings that are deliberately limited to one ethnicity.

Growing numbers of Californians advocate secession from the U.S. so the state can declare itself a free-standing nation. Muslim groups want to institute Sharia (Islamic) law that would supersede the American legal system. States remove all sanctions against marijuana, while the federal government can still arrest people who possess it.

Is there a more divisive issue in this country than abortion? Defenders simply argue that abortion is merely women's health care while pro-lifers call it what it really is: baby-killing. Some unstable people are so inflamed by legal abortion that they have taken to bombing clinics and executing doctors who practice this infanticide.

To watch national news media is to assume these manifold American divisions are so deep and intractable as to eventually be fatal to the Republic. The ubiquitous, repetitious pious reports from the scenes of all these destructive and demoralizing acts appear very convincing.

The country may be in a mess right now, but there's reason for hope. There's always reason for hope.

The remarkable humanitarian response to Hurricane Harvey in Texas and now Hurricane Irma in Florida is more than ample evidence of the self-sacrifice and love we harbor deep down inside us for our fellow men (and women, and children, and pets, and empty stomachs, and

the sick and injured). What we are witnessing right now should give us great hope.

If you believe this country is relentlessly divided, you must not have seen the young African American men saving elderly white women from drowning in the Houston floods. You must have overlooked the Hispanic boat-owners who risked their boats — and lives — in fast-moving current to rescue Asian children on the verge of being lost forever.

There was the store in Houston that opened its doors around the clock to exhausted first responders, so they could catch a few hours sleep on the store's mattress display models before their next duty shift. No doubt that cost the store a lot of profit on those new mattresses, but the owners didn't seem to mind in that moment of great need.

You must not have heard about the Floridians who stopped and picked up stranded, total strangers as they drove north to escape the violence of Hurricane Irma, or the homeowners in north Florida and Georgia who themselves took in total strangers fleeing the storm who had nowhere to go and no sustenance of their own.

Baptist disaster relief groups and other Christian organizations have been at the forefront. They have responded in unprecedented numbers and will continue to respond to victims' cries for help, even in the wildfire-ravaged areas of the American West that have been overlooked in the distraction of the two largest hurricanes to ever make landfall in U.S. history.

That is wholly due to one factor — our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is the perfect model of such behavior, giving up his own self-interest to save each one of us from the malevolent storms of sin that threaten to drown us for eternity. In Him, we are one (Col. 2:10). We are witnessing that reality displayed many, many thousands of times in these current crises.

May God bless the victims. Many God bless the selfless responders. May God bless America. May God bless our efforts to be more like Jesus, every day.

*Editor's note: For more information on how to get involved in the current disaster relief responses, visit [mbcb.org](http://mbcb.org).*

## Some things never change

**J**ust days ago, the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (CBMW) released, in partnership with the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), The Nashville Statement on biblical sexuality. The document is truly a landmark in theological history.

In an age when there is little clarity on sexual matters and a permissive, even pagan, ethic creeps into the church, The Nashville Statement clarifies what sexual fidelity to Christ entails.

The Nashville Statement lends invaluable biblical clarity to pastors and Christian leaders who are seeking, with great headwinds in their faces, to help sinners pulled by homosexual and transgender identity to find Christ. It engages several of the most vexing and unanswered questions of our day, and it does so with grace and truth in equal measure.

The stance just taken by CBMW and the ERLC, in partnership with warm-hearted, Christ-loving evangelicals across the denominational spectrum, reminds me of another controversial public stance.

Two millennia ago, John the Baptist came preaching Christ. His message was the Messiah. His call was to holiness. As John preached, he somehow gained the ear of Herod, a political leader. John had access to Herod, and he had the priceless opportunity to tell him of his need for spiritual salvation.

Surely John spoke of these things, but that was not all he said to Herod. John the Baptist rebuked Herod for divorcing his wife and marrying his half-brother's spouse, Herodias. Matthew's Gospel gives a succinct record of John's words to Herod: "It is not lawful for you to have her" (Matt. 14:4).

John did not merely warn Herod once but "kept on telling" him that he was sinning, and thus in danger of spending eternity in hell.

It was not the announcement of the Messiah that ended John's short life. It was the clear declaration of sexual ethics that sent him into eternity. The forerunner of Christ died because he called a wicked governor, a public figure, to repent.



**Guest opinion**  
with Owen Strachan

We learn that our sexual ethics are not divorced from the Gospel. They are bound up with the Gospel. You could say it this way: The Gospel creates sexual ethics. The Word of God has always done so. Sexual sin, as with unrighteousness of any kind, merits a loving response, and love of the biblical kind means not that we affirm sin but that we seek the rescue of those in danger of the righteous wrath of almighty God.

The Nashville Statement does not represent a nuking of existing bridges to Christ. Calling sin sinful and urging the wayward to repent and trust Christ is not problematic for Christian witness. It is Christian witness. There is no witness without it. There is no love without it. There is no hope without it. Out of such a biblical conviction, let us build friendships with unbelievers wherever we can. Let us never stop emulating John the Baptist. Let us tell the truth to them, the whole truth.

Let us also count the cost. Any stance that promotes the Word of God is going to rile the devil, as The Nashville Statement surely has, but we are not people who fear the devil or who fear the world. We love God and we love our neighbor, and so we will walk John's path, and share John's message, and point the lost — infinitely far from God, just as we once were — to John's Messiah.

*Strachan is associate professor of Christian theology and director of the Center for Public Theology at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., where this column first appeared at its [cpt.mbts.edu](http://cpt.mbts.edu) website and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style, clarity, and length.*

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### BAPTISTS

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# Southern Baptists to the rescue across Houston

HOUSTON (BP) — Paul Matlock, 73, was sitting in his yard staring into the distance, overwhelmed, when Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBD) volunteers arrived.

Floodwater from Hurricane Harvey had climbed more than six feet inside his home. It was chest high when he managed to escape with his wife Diana, 63, and their toy fox terrier. They had flooded twice before but never this badly.

They knew when they left during Harvey they would probably lose almost everything they owned. The sight when they returned confirmed it.

The Matlocks had just finished restoring their home following last year's "Tax Day" flood. A granite countertop and brand-new stainless steel appliances lined the kitchen where Diana enjoyed cooking for friends and family.

Little of that is salvageable now. "I spent three days trying to figure out what I had done to make God so mad at me," Paul said as he watched SBD volunteers carry items to the curb. "I've lived a pretty moral life and [the hurricane] affected all of my immediate family and my wife's family in Louisiana."

His spirits were immediately lifted when he saw he had not been forgotten by God. When the SBD trucks rolled into the driveway, his first thought was to grasp the volunteers' hands and join them in a prayer of thanksgiving.

"I'm convinced God sent them here," Paul said.

For thousands upon thousands of homeowners like the Matlocks in Houston and along the Texas Gulf Coast, Southern Baptist volunteers are on-site or making plans to be there to add their labor and share their faith.

At the Matlock home in Houston, SBD unit leader Brian Batchelder, whose unit is with the Southern Baptists of Texas convention, said the Matlocks knew what needed to be done but had no idea how to do it alone.

"We provided the 'how,'" said Batchelder, who attends Broadview Church in Abilene, Texas. "People need to see Jesus in the middle of a crisis. That's why we come — so people can see what Jesus means to us and how He can help them."

When Paul teasingly asked volunteers not to scratch his ruined truck, Batchelder knew the homeowner was beginning to find hope.

A smaller moment encouraged volunteers Linda Parker and Glenda Warren, both of Mission Dorado Church in Odessa, Texas. When they arrived with the SBD mud-out team, they found Paul despondent and almost in tears. No one had touched anything, and the stench of mud and mold was

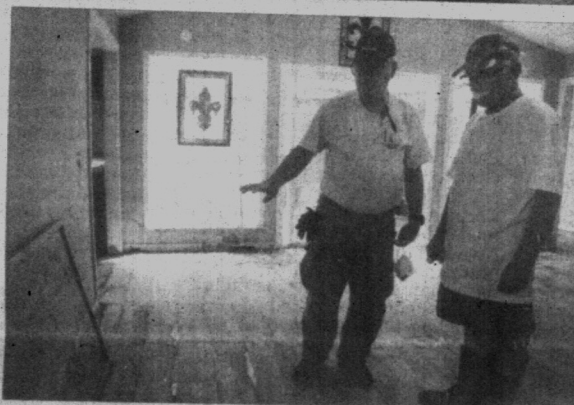


## ▲ OUT WITH THE OLD —

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer Neal Allison of Central Church in Thornton, Texas, carries a flood-damaged door to a debris pile in front of a Houston home damaged by Hurricane Harvey's floodwaters. (BP photo)

## ► MAKING PLANS —

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief unit leader Brian Batchelder (left) of Broadview Church in Abilene, Texas, discusses cleanup efforts with Paul Matlock, whose Houston home was flooded with more than six feet of water from Hurricane Harvey dumped more than 51 inches of rainfall in mid-August. (BP photo)



**MUD-OUT** — Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer Sean Curry of Champion Forest Church in Houston pulls flood-damaged sheet-rock from a Houston home battered by Hurricane Harvey. (BP photo)

overwhelming even with a protective mask.

The only thing Paul wanted to find was his father's 1942 class ring from Oklahoma Baptist University. Matlock kept it on his rightstand in a handmade wooden box, but everything in the room had been scattered by the floodwater.

The Matlocks and volunteers together scoured the

room and found the ring as well as a large container filled with photographs that somehow had been untouched by the flooding.

Little things like that are irreplaceable, Parker said. The fact that someone was doing something took the burden off his shoulders.

SBD volunteers say they try to serve as the hands and



## PRECIOUS FIND —

Houston Homeowner Paul Matlock holds his father's 1942 Oklahoma Baptist University class ring, which Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers found by scouring through his flood-damaged home. (BP photo)

feet of Jesus, easing the spiritual burden as well as the financial through providing cleanup aid at no cost.

"These folks have lost everything," Batchelder said. "It just breaks my heart to take all their stuff to the curb and to have to pay someone to do that..."

Batchelder's voice broke as he recalled his first volunteer experience, following 2005's Hurricane Katrina on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. At the completion of every project, he and the volunteers signed a

Bible and gifted it to the homeowners as a tangible reminder that they are never alone.

"This isn't about us — it's about Jesus," he said, gazing at the gold-shirted volunteers working in the Matlocks' house and debris-laden yard. "We'll be gone, but He'll still be here."

Paul and Diana were unable to escape with anything but a few pieces of clothing and family mementos. What little remains of flood survivors' lives is under constant threat by looters. Three homes have been looted in the Matlocks' neighborhood, but local law enforcement has increased patrols in the area and Paul believes his home will be safe.

SBD volunteers expect to be stationed in Texas for many months as assessment and recovery continues.

The scope of the devastation is staggering. Houston is the fourth-largest city in the nation, bigger than the state of New Jersey and with a population of more than 2.3 million within city limits and 6.5 million throughout the metro area.

Across the state, Hurricane Harvey affected more than 6.8 million people in 18 counties. As the days pass, the damage and death totals continue to rise.

So, too, do the number of volunteers. In the Matlocks' area, SBD has partnered with Champion Forest Church. A church-wide call for volunteers supplemented the ranks by more than 2,000 people.

Together, SBD and Champion Forest Church have cleaned more than 400 homes with many more scheduled for the days to come.

The impact of Hurricane Harvey remains mind-numbing. As the Category 4 storm crept across Texas in mid-August at an agonizingly slow two miles per hour, 51 inches of rain kept falling and the rivers and bayous kept rising.

The water rose quickly in downtown Houston, inundating local businesses, killing more than 70 people, necessitating more than 75,000 rescues and causing up to \$190 billion in damage. An estimated 27 trillion gallons of rain enough to fill the Houston Astrodome 85,000 times — fell in Texas and Louisiana over a six-day span.

In Houston's neighborhoods, the flood's toll becomes heartbreakingly clear. Many homes remain underwater and rescue efforts continue. In locations where the water has receded, fetid muck has replaced the water and slickened the floors and coated the walls.

As the days pass, a mounting pile of debris lines the curbs, almost obscuring the homes from which it comes.

"Things are worse than they've ever been." That was the comment by an older gentleman with whom I was talking recently. He of course had a long list of valid reasons pointing to the fact that things are really bad. It's not unusual to hear someone making a comment on how bad things are. It doesn't matter what part of society you're observing, things are pretty bad. Whether it's the government and media daily squabble or the national debt rising at thousands and thousands of dollars every second or terrorism that could break out anywhere around the globe and the possibility existing that it could happen right near you, things are bad and they do seem to be getting worse.

To say things are the worst they've ever been is probably a stretch. I began to think about when things were really bad in the very beginning of human existence. As the Scripture tells about Adam and Eve living in a perfect world, a paradise of a garden, the joys they experienced were beyond understanding. He was a man who had been created and into whose nostrils God had breathed life and then placed him in the garden. Life was good. Then God took a rib and created woman. Can you imagine the day when Adam saw her for the first time and she saw him, and the two of them realized they were made for each other? There they were in that perfect home, but then that tragic day came when Adam and Eve did the unthinkable. God said everything in the garden was theirs, except for the one tree. Seeing the fruit was good, beautiful to look upon, and certainly must taste ever so sweet. They both took of the tree and they both sinned against God.

Then the world turned unbelievably bad. From that point on, food was going to be hard to get and put on the table

because thorns and thistles were going to compete for the crops. Marriage was no longer a happy place, for the man and the woman lived in the strange relationship of difficulty in communicating and now were blaming one another. Then, on a day they could never have dreamed of, one fourth of humanity was wiped out in a day when a brother killed his brother.

It should be noted that when they said things have never been this bad, they were right. That was at the very beginning. As you contemplate how bad things are, you have to be honest in assessing periods of our history, even just American history, when things have really been bad. I think of the early struggles of our country during the Revolution to try to establish a country and break free of the tight fist of the British. People wondered what the future held. Was there a future? Times were bad. Once this fledgling

nation began to grow, it then turned on itself, divided up, and fought a Civil War that would kill more of the citizens than any other war. People in the North and South must have thought that was the worst it had ever been.

Then as a new century had begun, we found ourselves enmeshed in World War I and things were really bad. Some years after the First World War, there came a deep depression, the Great Depression, where people lost everything and others had nothing to lose. It was a tragic economic time in American history and things were truly difficult. Sometimes impossible. In the depths of the Great Depression, Americans could not believe they were about to launch into World War II and thousands upon thousands of our fellow citizens would die in that war, a war to end all wars — but it didn't. Truly, the times were so bad they were indescribable.

There have been wars and skirmishes taking place over and over since that worldwide war, and now we come to today. There have been so many periods where, as Scripture describes, nation shall rise against nation; there will be wars and rumors of wars (Matt. 24:6-7). They spread all over the continent and all over the globe, but we press on. Is this the worst that things have ever been? Maybe. Maybe not. Scripture describes that things will get worse in the last days. Paul writes in Second Tim. 3:1-4, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." That will be a bad time.

I mention all of these bad times not to bring depression upon your own soul, but to tell you that through all of them and this day, Jesus is still on His throne. He not only is alive and well and on His throne, He is going to return to earth once again. The worst of times will become some of the best of times when the people of God gather together with Him. Two things of which we need to be reminded — One is to keep our eyes fixed on Him. Two is to stay faithful doing what He has asked us to do. When we do, that may be a difficult time, but we can experience the wonder and the glow and the glory of God in the midst of it all. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).

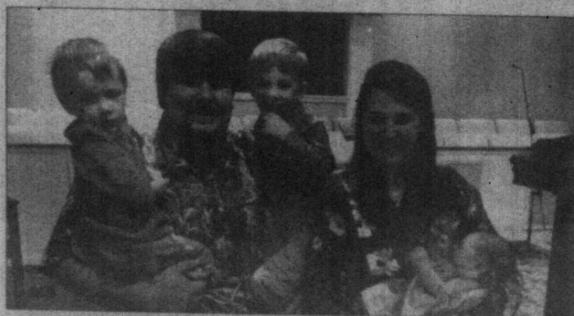


## Directions

With Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

# Things Are Worse Than They've Ever Been

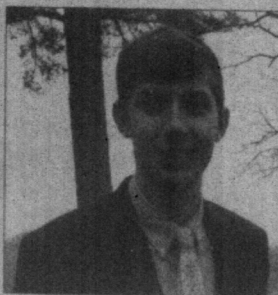
## Staff Changes



**VALLEY GROVE CHURCH, PONTOTOC COUNTY**, has called Nathan Bailey as minister of students. He is shown with his wife, Abby, and family. Greg Herndon, pastor.



**NEW HENLEYFIELD SOUTHERN CHURCH, CARRIERE**, welcomes new pastor Justin Anderson, his wife Marlie, and son Josiah.



**TRINITY CHURCH, ITAWAMBA COUNTY**, has called Mark Robbins as youth director.

## MS POSITIONS

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS

September 14, 2017

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

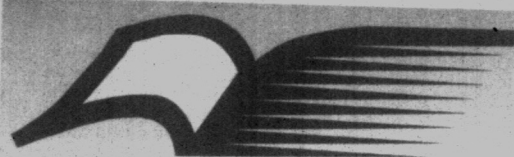
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more information**

M I S S I S S I P P I



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### Pastor/Leadership Development

## PASTOR DATE NIGHT

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Temple Baptist Church  
5220 Old Hwy 11  
Hattiesburg, MS 39402

November 7  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
First Baptist Church  
9155 Highland  
Olive Branch, MS 38654

Contact Vesta Clary at 601-292-3305 or  
[vclary@mbcb.org](mailto:vclary@mbcb.org) for more info.

ON HIS

*mission  
glory*

**MARGARET LACKEY**  
OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS  
MISSISSIPPI

2018 Stewardship Emphasis

# Transparency

Complying with God's Directive

If the Lord is God,  
then follow Him!

1 Kings 18:21

For more information, contact the Stewardship/  
Cooperative Program Department at  
601-292-3347 or [lleavell@mbcb.org](mailto:lleavell@mbcb.org).

MINISTRY WIVES CONFERENCE

10.20-21

FBC, JACKSON | 5th FLOOR

# Joy in the Journey



PAGE HUGHES  
Speaker

For more info, contact the Pastor/Leadership  
Development Department at 601-292-3305  
or [vcclary@mbcb.org](mailto:vcclary@mbcb.org).

## Merry Christmas!

to pastors in the Baptist Convention of New York through the Suit Project ministry.

Every year we seek to bless pastors and their wives with gifts, sending pastors new suits and their wives gift cards. This ministry has been blessing ministers and their families since 1963. Join in making the holidays even more special for these ministers by giving to the suit project. Donations to this ministry can be a rewarding fundraising project for any group in your church: Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, WMU, Men's Ministry, VBS, or youth.

To make donations, or for more information, contact the Men's Ministry Department of the MBCE at 800-748-1651, Ext. 335, 601-292-3335, or E-mail [dvail@mbcb.org](mailto:dvail@mbcb.org).



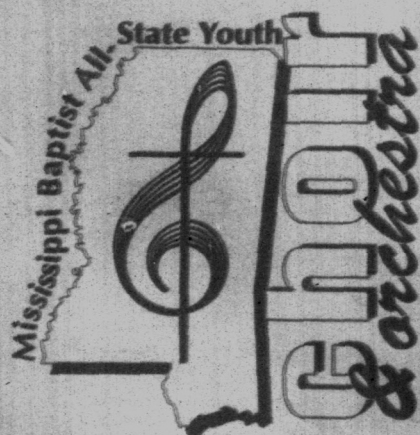
2017 Youth Evangelism Challenge

## SHARING JESUS!

December 27-28 @ Mississippi College

Contact the Evangelism Department at 601-292-3335 or [evangelism@mbcb.org](mailto:evangelism@mbcb.org) for more info.





2017 Auditions for the  
2018 Mississippi Baptist  
All-State Youth Choir and  
Orchestra

Open to 9th-12th graders  
involved in the music  
ministry of MS Southern  
Baptist Churches  
REGISTER 2 WEEKS PRIOR  
TO THE AUDITION.

Saturday, September 16  
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
FBC, Columbia

Sunday, September 17  
1:30 - 4:00 p.m.  
FBC, Long Beach

Thursday, September 28  
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
FBC, Meridian

Thursday, October 5  
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Fairview BC, Columbus

Saturday, October 7  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Belden BC, Belden

Sunday, October 8  
1:30 - 4:00 p.m.  
Belden BC, Belden

Saturday, October 14  
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Baptist Building, Jackson

Sunday, October 15  
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Baptist Building, Jackson

For necessary forms and audition  
information, contact the  
Church Music Department at  
cwtaylor@mbcb.org

PASTOR/LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT

## MOVING BEYOND

A ONE DAY LEADERSHIP EVENT



JOHNNY HUNT

OCT. 3, 2017

BROADMOOR  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
MADISON, MS

REGISTER TODAY  
[TINYURL.COM/HUNT2017](http://tinyurl.com/hunt2017)

WOMAN'S  
MISSIONARY UNION

## ARISE SHINE



WHEN WE RISE UP  
HE SHINES THROUGH

BAPTIST WOMEN'S  
WORLD DAY OF  
PRAYER

NOVEMBER 6, 2017

[http://www.bwawd.org/  
day-of-prayer](http://www.bwawd.org/day-of-prayer)

## COLLEGE STUDENT CONFERENCE 2017

September 29-30

First Baptist Church - Madison, MS

# [UN]distracted

Pursuing and proclaiming  
the ONE thing that matters

For more info, contact the Collegiate Ministry Department at 601-292-8299  
or mhooper@mbcb.org

Pray this day for...

September 15 - September 28, 2017

*"praying at all times in the Spirit... To that end keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."*  
Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Pray for: **Karen Brown**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through nursing.

Pray for: **Matthew Burke**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through general evangelism.

Pray for: **Rebekah Clark**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through youth evangelism.

Pray for: **Cindy DeMars**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Guy DeMars**, missionary ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through hospitality coordination.

Pray for: **David & Laurie Bledsoe**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through general evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Kaye Brooks**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Thomas & Kerri Dewett**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through general evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Aaron & Tiffany Epps**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through general evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Shella Flowers**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through administration.

Pray for: **Clarence Frank & Phoebe Harrison**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples.

Pray for: **Kenneth & Kimberly Hathcock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Earl & Ramona Hewitt**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through medicine & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Cynthia Hodgins**, missionary ministering to Deaf Peoples through church/home outreach evangelism.



Miss Maya Grace 11/6/2014  
Parents: J & C  
Restricted

M.M. 11/29/12  
Restricted

Mr. Josiah Putnam 11/30/03  
Parents: Tracy & Genie  
European Peoples



To Be Sent October 25, 2017, by the WMU Office

PLEASE NOTE THE TIMING: Thank you for your love and support of MKs by sending birthday cards! Because of the sending to other countries, there is a need to get cards sent a month ahead of birthdays. As soon as the list is in the Baptist Record, please send the cards and not wait until a couple of weeks before the date of the birthday. It is posted two months ahead to give time to receive cards and then to mail them a month ahead of time to insure arrival around birthdays. Again, thank you for being a blessing to so many with this ministry!  
NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.  
FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: MBCB-WMU: MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.  
Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.

## PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

**\*\*BIVOCATIONAL PASTORS\*\***  
We want to hear from you!

Watch your mail for important updates

Includes information about upcoming 2017  
Bivocational Pastors Survey and other  
resource opportunities

For more information contact Michael Lee at  
mlee@mbcb.org or at 601-292-3308



Mississippi WMU  
Annual Meeting

First Baptist Church Jackson  
October 30, 2017  
12:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Chapel

Guest Speaker: Sandy Wisdom-Martin  
"New" Executive Director for National WMU

Worship Leader: Teresa Harmening



Wisdom-Martin



Harmening

Reception Honoring Janet Green

For four Years of Outstanding Service as Our President  
2:00 p.m. - Chapel Parlor

Acts 1:8 Banquet

WMU Annual Meeting participants are invited to attend the  
Acts 1:8 Banquet at 4:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall West, FBC Jackson.

Attendance is free but you must register to attend.

Please call or email Tori Baldwin at 601-292-3317 or  
tbaldwin@mbcb.org to RSVP by Tuesday, October 10, 2017.

Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

# HOUSE TOPS



# Texas abortion clinics make gruesome offer

**HOUSTON (BP)** — A chain of Texas-based abortion clinics has announced it will provide no-cost abortions during the month of September "for those affected by Hurricane Harvey."

Whole Woman's Health, which operates Texas clinics in Austin, Fort Worth, McAllen, and San Antonio, announced its free-abortion campaign in a Sept. 1 blog post stating, "The need for abortion care does not stop for natural disasters."

Supported by abortion-assistance funds, including the Lillith Fund and the Stigma Relief Fund, Whole Woman's Health will also offer free travel and lodging as part of its campaign.

Pro-life advocates called the

offer "heinous" and "callous."

"The promotion of this heinous no-cost service is riddled with fallacies because abortion is never free," said Melissa Conway, director of external relations for Texas Right to Life.

"There is always a cost to abortion. Women are not free from the emotional toll that ensues after abortion and the child is certainly not free to live another day. Abortions, just like the catastrophic effects of a hurricane, are never free and we, as a community, pay the price for their needless destruction."

"As so many are living in the tragic remains of Harvey, now more than ever is the time to protect the most vulnerable

among us and combat the predatory schemes of big-business abortion attempting to victimize women and terminate the lives of their preborn babies."

Followers of Jesus must "be the hands and feet of Christ" following Harvey, Conway said, especially to "women who are pregnant and in crisis." Such women should be referred to pregnancy care centers that will care for them and their unborn children, she said.

Tom Billings, executive director of the Houston-area Union Association, told Baptist Press in written comments, "It's ironic after so many heroic efforts to save pets during the recent floods in Houston that any-

one would be so callous with the life of an unborn child."

Whole Woman's Health stated in its blog post, "Unfortunately, we know all too well that abortion can be difficult to access in some parts of the country, especially in Texas. There are already so many barriers to access this necessary procedure, and natural disasters stand in the way of women getting to their appointment and/or being able to afford care."

"During Hurricane Harvey, many of the clinics in Houston had to close temporarily, leaving women with very few options. Continued political attacks on abortion access make an unwanted pregnancy partic-

ularly stressful in Texas — add that to the stress of dealing with hurricane aftermath," the blog post stated.

Abby Johnson, a pro-life advocate and former director of a Texas Planned Parenthood clinic, said her former employer made a similar free-abortion offer following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Though the idea seemed "fantastic" at the time, Johnson said according to LifeNews.com, "I now realize that we were preying on these families in their most desperate time of need. We didn't offer to help them find housing, food, clothing, or anything else... just a way to kill their unborn child at 'no cost.' Sick."

## Almost-forgotten wildfires marching across Western U.S.

**SEELEY LAKE, Mont. (BP)**

While raging hurricanes have devastated the U.S. Gulf Coast, wildfires in the western United States have been mostly overlooked by the national audience as an area cumulatively larger than the state of Maryland has been consumed.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief units, however, are preparing for ministry.

Nine western states — California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming — have experienced fires this year that have consumed more than eight million total acres — three million acres above the annual national average for the past decade, according to The Washington Post.

Disaster relief units from the Montana Southern Baptist Convention are poised for action amid what The Post has labeled "the most destructive fire season in the last 20 years" for the state. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved disaster assistance for three large western Montana fires, the Associated Press reported Sept. 10.

Dan Stewart, disaster relief coordinator for the Montana Southern Baptist Convention, said most property loss thus far seems to be fences, out buildings, and vacation homes. The convention's disaster relief teams are prepared to do ash-out work for any homes that have been burned, he said.

The Montana convention also may help coordinate local pastors and youth groups

to cut trees away from vulnerable homes, take down burned fencing for ranchers, and cut trees back from vulnerable fence lines, Stewart told Baptist Press.

Generally, Montanans "don't ask for help and they don't look for help," Stewart said, "and they [wonder], 'Why are you helping me?' That gives us an opportunity to tell them about the love of Christ."

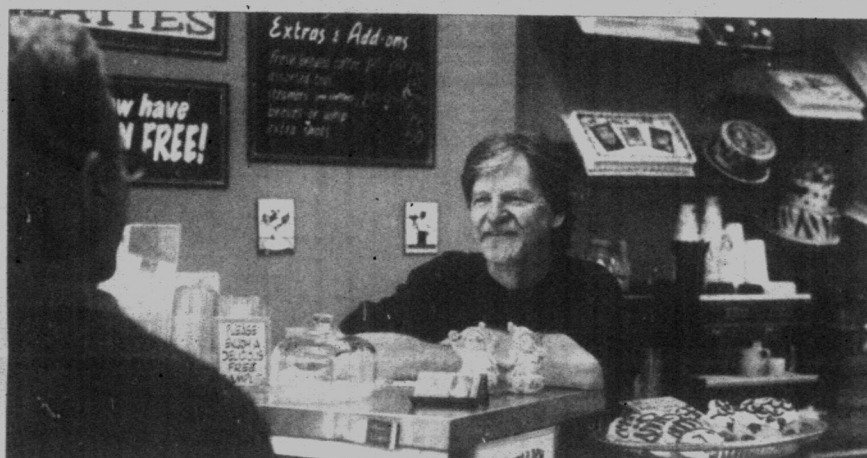
One Montana feeding unit was mobilized to feed evacuated residents at a shelter near the Missoula-area Seeley Lake fire, which started in July. That unit was called off when residents dispersed before emergency crews could reach the shelter, Stewart said.

In Oregon, where fire has seared more than 640,000 acres according to The Post, disaster relief units from the Northwest Baptist Convention are on standby.

The Eagle Creek fire, which has burned more than 33,000 acres in northern Oregon according to UPI, has chainsaw crews on standby, said Bill Griffith, a regional disaster relief coordinator for the Northwest Convention.

The Chetco Bar fire in southern Oregon may require feeding units for evacuees, Griffith said. That blaze has consumed 180,000 acres, The Post reported.

In California, the Los Angeles-area La Tuna fire threatened 1,400 homes and injured 10 people before firefighters achieved 100% containment on Sept. 10, according to news media reports.



**MASTERPIECE CAKESHOP**

## Court urged to protect cake artist's religious freedom

**WASHINGTON (BP)** — Forcing an artist to create a cake for a same sex wedding in contradiction to his beliefs is a "de facto religious test" that violates the First Amendment, the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville has told the U.S. Supreme Court.

The ERLC, joined by seven other organizations and an individual, urged the high court to reverse a lower court ruling against Colorado cake artist Jack Phillips and his Masterpiece Cakeshop in a friend-of-the-court brief filed Sept. 7.

The justices agreed in June to accept the appeal and are expected to hear oral arguments this fall in one of the cases at the center of the growing legal and cultural skirmish between religious liberty and sexual liberty.

Phillips, who is Christian, declined to design and decorate

a cake for the wedding of two men because of his belief that marriage is only between a male and a female. He told the pair he would make and sell them all other baked items.

After the men filed a complaint with the state, the Colorado Civil Rights Commission ordered Phillips to create custom cakes for same sex ceremonies or quit designing wedding cakes. The commission also ordered him to re-educate his employees on complying with the Colorado Anti-discrimination Act, which the commission found Phillips had violated.

When Phillips appealed, the Colorado Court of Appeals upheld the commission's order and the Colorado Supreme Court declined in 2016 to review the decision.

ERLC President Russell Moore told Baptist Press, "No

person should be required to use their gifts and calling in a way that violates their fundamental beliefs, and the Supreme Court's responsibility is to protect Americans from governments and agencies that demand this."

In a similar case, the ERLC and others urged the Supreme Court in an August brief to review an opinion against Baronne Stutzman, a Washington state florist who declined to design flowers for a same sex wedding. ADE, which also represents Stutzman, has asked the justices to consolidate the Southern Baptist woman's appeal with Phillips' case.

The case is *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*.

Editor's note: Photo courtesy of Alliance Defending Freedom (adfflegal.org).

## IRMA

cont. from p. 1

ready to deploy with the feeding unit, he added.

In Texas, the first team of MBDR volunteers wrapped up their feeding assignment in Corpus Christi and returned home to Mississippi on Sept. 11. The 20 Mississippi Baptists worked at a mass feeding unit belonging to the Southern Baptists of Texas convention, contributing to the 130,000 meals being prepared daily by Southern Baptist volunteers.

The MBDR Incident Command Leadership Team is on the ground in Orange, Texas, where the Texas Baptists coordinating the response to Hurricane Harvey have requested MBDR volunteers. Thomas Nix, MBDR volunteer and member of First Church, Fulton, is serving as team leader.

Among the Leadership Team's responsibilities are feeding, assessment, chaplaincy, and support. MBDR mud-out/cleanup teams began arriving in Orange on Sept. 10.

So far, over 100 work orders for mud-out/cleanup have already been received. These work orders were assessed and prioritized so MBDR teams could begin work on Monday of this week.

"The unusually large number of work orders shows the huge need, as these have been received in less than twenty-four hours. More assessors are in Orange to help document needs in the local area," Gann said.

MBDR shower units are in service in Deridder, La., and Katy, Texas. Also, long-time MBDR volunteer Donna Swarts, member of Goodwater Church, Magee, has come out of retirement to relieve Tracy

## Donations will go to hurricane response

Financial donations may be given through Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief (MBDR) and will go directly to support victim recovery in partnership with local Baptist churches and associations. Donations may be made on-line at [mbcb.org/giving/](http://mbcb.org/giving/). Checks made payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, designated "Hurricane Relief" on the memo line, may be mailed to MBDR, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

At the present time, MBDR has no provisions for in-kind donations (clothing, furniture, etc.).

For information on volunteering, visit [mbcb.org](http://mbcb.org).

**"We need volunteers that will commit to long-term help meeting the needs of the communities impacted in Texas and in Florida. Please continue to pray for the areas that have already been impacted."**

**David Melber**

**Southern Baptist North American Mission Board vice president of Send Relief**

Barber, childcare coordinator for the Texas Baptist Men organization.

Preparations are being made by the Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Pennsylvania/South Jersey, New York, and Virginia Baptist conventions to respond to the needs of Florida hurricane survivors.

David Melber, the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board (NAMB) vice president of Send Relief, has been working with NAMB's disaster relief partners, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDRL) directors in several states, the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, National Voluntary Organizations Active in

Disaster (NVOAD), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and others to map out unique response plans for hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

"Every hurricane is a challenge, and none of them are alike," Melber said. "That means every response is different. Harvey stayed in one place for days and dropped 52 inches of rain. This slowed down every organization's ability to respond but now we are in full response mode."

As of Sept. 11, Hurricane Harvey SBDRL response has witnessed 29 professions of faith and initiated 508 Gospel conversations; provided 444,765 meals, 7,240 showers, and 4,534 loads of laundry; and completed 109 construction jobs including 47 roof repairs.

The work is not finished in Texas and has just begun in Florida.

"For both hurricanes, we will need generous partners to help us with the significant expenses related to responding to these events," Melber said. "Then we need volunteers that will commit to long-term help meeting the needs of the communities impacted in Texas and in Florida."

Please continue to pray for the areas that have already been impacted."

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org).

## BIBLIOPHER

ERN TIDW XG ZIIV, L GEDICZ RITW

XC ERN WLP IA EDIJYTN; LCW RN

VCIKNER ERNH ERLE EDJGE XC RXH.

CLRJH ICN: GNMNC

**Clue: X = I**

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John 1:36

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Indian Springs Church, Laurel:** Revival, Sept. 17 - 20; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. nightly; Dan Louman, speaker, Brandon Harvell, music; Richard C. Clark, pastor.  
► **Harmony Church, Walnut:** Homecoming, Sept. 17; music service, 10:30 a.m., followed by worship.  
► **Union Church, Picayune:** 175th anniversary homecoming,

Sept. 16 - 17; Sat., 4 - 6 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m., followed by potluck meal.

► **First Church, Eupora:** Revival, Sept. 17 - 20; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Barry Corbitt, speaker.

► **Peoples Church, Ripley:** Homecoming, Sept. 17; service, 10 a.m.; Malcolm Lindsey, speaker. Revival, Sept. 18 - 22; 7 p.m. nightly; David Haynes, speaker.

## Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## Liberation • Exodus 12:1-13

The Mississippi Baptist Ministry Assistants Association's annual conference is a wonderful time of worship, learning, fellowship, and fun. In April of 2016, their conference was entitled, "Your Part in Making the Puzzle Pieces Fit". One of the highlights of this annual event is the Monday evening banquet and that year the ladies had the opportunity to learn about the Passover Seder. The following is from the event's brochure (MBCB). "Paul Gay will demonstrate the physical elements and historical significance of each portion of the meal, which is the backdrop of our Lord's Supper observance. A taste of each dish will be offered to us to enhance our learning experience... The celebration is about freedom from slavery!"

The 430 years of slavery for the nation of Israel is about to end; prepare for departure (Gen. 15:13; Ex. 12:40; Acts 7:6). Starting with Exodus 11, "The LORD said to Moses, 'Yet one more plague... upon Pharaoh and Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely' (vs. 1 ESV). The purpose is defined: "...that you may know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel" (Ex. 11:7).

Get out a bold marker and highlight Exo-

dus 12:2, something big is about to happen. "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month (Nisan) of the year for you." This is known as the religious calendar and would be our March or April (Be Delivered, Wiersbe). If Moses had a daily planner, he would mark this down as the day of days! A new beginning, but more importantly the calendar would be based on theology—history defined by God. It was a memorial day and they were to "keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast" (vs. 14). On the 10th of Nisan the people were to take a lamb, without blemish, a year old male, and for each household.

At twilight on the 14th of Nisan the congregation of Israel killed the lambs and placed the blood on the two doorposts and the lintel of their homes. This act signified obedience and faith. Tony Merida writes,

"So Israel escaped judgment through this sacrifice, and salvation was accomplished by faith in the substitute" (Exalting Jesus in Exodus). The Passover lamb itself prefigured Jesus. "...For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Cor. 5:7b-8 NKJV). John the

Baptist said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29) Hebrews 9:22b. "...without the shedding of blood there is

no forgiveness of sins." Hebrews 10:12 "But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins..." Are you falling on your knees, shouting glory, for the Lamb who was slain, lives! (See Rom 8:29; Col 1:15,18; 1 Peter 1:19; Heb. 1:6; Rev. 5:6)

While the men were killing the lambs someone was making sure the fire was

ready for roasting the lamb which was to be served with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Everyone was to eat it in this manner, "with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and the staff in your hand...eat in haste." Be ready to go!

The time for judgment had come for the Egyptians and it was God's final demonstration of His superiority: "I will pass through the land of Egypt that night and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD" (vs. 12). The people were delivered by this distinguishing mark: the blood on the doorposts and lintel. It was the saving grace of God. "For by grace you have been saved through faith" (Eph. 2:8). Notice the phrase, "when I see the blood I will pass over you" (vs. 13). When God sees the blood of Christ, His atonement for your sin (my sin), He passes over us with His judgment (Rev. 7:14). In Christ I am set free from the penalty of sin (Romans 6:17,18) and have become a slave to righteousness.

The story of redemption is liberating news: Chag Sumach (Happy Festival)!

Leathers is a member of First Church, Madison.

## The Paranormal • Deuteronomy 18:9-18

"Do not imitate the detestable customs of those nations. No one among you is to sacrifice his son or daughter in the fire, practice divination, tell fortunes, interpret omens, sorcery, cast spells, consult a medium or a spiritist, or inquire of the dead," Deuteronomy 18:9b-11 (CSB).

Nations, during the time frame of Deuteronomy, were really closer to tribes or people groups than to modern nation states. So, Moses is warning against following the detestable customs of any non-Christian or anti-Christian group. The very first prohibition of this Old Testament Law is against the practice of any group that kills their own children. This would apply if the purpose is population control, corrupted religious attempts to placate an angry false god, callous preferences for sexual determination of babies, to cover up inappropriate or indiscreet sexual activity, or just because the child is incontinent.

Second on the list is divination. Divination is any attempt to gain insight of advantage from the gods or other spirits by things such as fortune telling; interpreting omens or cards; sorcery using witches, sorcerers, or black magic.

Also, prohibited is the casting of spells using curses, incantations, or any other way of dictating the future without regard to God's will or right and wrong. Last on

this list, which is not intended to be an exhaustive list, is consulting the dead.

"Everyone who does these acts is detestable to the LORD, and the LORD your God is driving out the nations before you because of these detestable acts. ... Though these nations you are about to drive out listen to fortune-tellers and diviners, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do this," Deuteronomy 18:12-14 (CSB). The Personal Study Guide says "It's worth

repeating: nothing good comes from dabbling in the paranormal. Yet studies show that almost one-third of Americans have consulted their horoscopes. Nearly 12 percent of Americans (roughly 42 million people) have personally consulted a psychic, medium, or fortune-teller. Nearly 25 percent of Americans like to research ghosts and haunted houses."

This raises the question, does God have a plan to guide us and help us today and in the future? The answer is a definite em-

phatic YES! Moses tells us God's plan is: "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him," Deuteronomy 18:15 (CSB). We must listen because God promised, "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him," Deuteronomy 18:18 (CSB).

A wise saying from the Old Testament explains our need for a prophet or a preacher in this way, "Plans fail when there is no counsel, but with many advisers they succeed," Proverbs 15:22 (CSB). The New Testament writer in Hebrews applies this principle like this, "Long ago God spoke to the fathers by the prophets at different times and in different ways. In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son. God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe through him," Hebrews 1:1-2 (CSB). Remember we just read in Deuteronomy 18:18 "I will put

my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him."

The Old Testament Prophet, Jeremiah, tells us a great truth about what God wants us to know when he says, "For I know the plans I have for you - this is the LORD's declaration - 'plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.'" Jeremiah 29:11 (CSB). When we test the preacher's message (council), we look to see if it is consistent with biblical teaching and God's love shown us through Jesus Christ. Is the preacher a brother (a fellow follower of Christ and biblical teaching) like Moses? Verses 15 and 18 both stress the prophet that God sends will be like Moses. 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 tells us, "But test all things. Hold on to what is good. Stay away from every kind of evil."

When God puts words in the minister's mouth they will be true and trustworthy, not so with the fortune teller who sets up elaborate props to fool his client and take his victim's money with lies and deceit. The father of lies and deceit is Satan, that old ancient serpent. Props and fakery are used to trick the grieving widow or child to convince them they can talk to their trusted and loved but dead family member.

Hicks is Associational Missions Director for Jasper Association.

## Bible Studies for Life

with Don Hicks



## EVOLUTION

cont. from p. 1

wants to think that, on the great questions of biological origins, orthodox evolutionary theory has got it all figured out," Discovery Institute experts wrote on their organization's blog.

Müller's admission offers a particularly damning critique since answers to questions

about how life began and complexity occurred form the basis for all origin theories. He also referred to the concept of macroevolution, the idea that one species can evolve into a totally different species, as "vague" and advised proponents of an expanded framework of evolution to avoid the term altogether.

Many Christians reject the theory of macroevolution, because the Bible teaches that

God created everything according to its kind. Somewhat less controversial is the theory of microevolution, which refers to changes or adaptations within a species.

For example, dog breeders can breed a dog that sheds less and is still a dog, but they can't breed a dog that can fly. Many evolutionists believe microevolutionary changes lead to macroevolution, but Müller admitted even evolutionary

experts argue among themselves about whether microevolutionary adaptations actually produce macroevolution.

Even within evolutionary circles, Müller noted, a large number of scientists recognize that the standard theory of evolution needs to be revised or replaced altogether.

"A rising number of publications argue for a major revision or even a replacement of the standard theory of evolution,

indicating that this cannot be dismissed as a minority view but rather is a widespread feeling among scientists and philosophers alike."

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## Just for the Record



### In other Church News:

► Central Church, McNeill, is hosting a Beth Moore simulcast Sept. 16, 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. Tickets available at the church office, \$10 cash. Doors open 7:30 a.m. with coffee and pastries. Listening guide and lunch provided. Door prizes.

The GA's of **ARLINGTON CHURCH, ROGUE CHITTO**, collected and delivered supplies to Dickerson Place. The girls earned the Christmas in August badge. Shown are the participants.



**CLEAR BRANCH CHURCH, WESSON**, held a Celebration of Faith service Aug. 20 with a note burning to celebrate the church being paid off.



**FREDONIA CHURCH, NEW ALBANY**, held a Mission Organization recognition service Aug. 30. The Mission Friends, GA's, and RA's received certificates, medals, and badges during the service.



The GA's of **VICTORY CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN**, are shown writing notes to put in bags containing personal care products for Hurricane Harvey victims.



**BAXTERVILLE CHURCH, LUMBERTON**, honored Jerrold Johnson for his long and faithful service as deacon, Brotherhood member and church member. He is shown receiving his plaque from Todd Rayborn.



**MISSISSIPPI CAMPERS ON MISSION** held a state rally at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko. Shown are Phil and Betty Vanderhagen with a plaque honoring them for their many years of service, serving as treasurer and secretary.



**FIRST CHURCH, POTTS CAMP**, held their Girls in Action award night Aug. 30. Shown are the 1st - 6th grade GA's.

## You Are Invited To Attend "Tell Everyone" County Wide Revival



Speaker  
Dr. Fred Luter  
Pastor of Franklin  
Avenue—New Orleans

### Our Revival Effort Leaders



Testimony  
Chris Huffman  
Area Representative  
FCA - District 7  
Southwest MS

Worship Leader  
Bradley White  
FBC, Summit

**Brookhaven High School Football Field**  
Sunday - September 24th - 5:00 pm

Co-Sponsored by Lincoln Baptist Association and BMS FCA  
For more information, call Lincoln Baptist Association @ 601-833-8111